



PRESS RELEASE

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INTEGRITY



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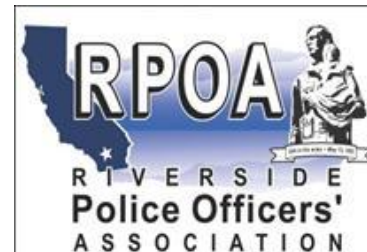


EXCELLENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Youth Backpack Program Underway

Riverside, CA — During the past four years, the *Riverside Police Officer's Association* (RPOA) has been providing backpacks containing school supplies to approximately 1,000 students in the City of Riverside. This year, the RPOA has partnered with two local non-profit agencies, the *Riverside Police Foundation* and *A Foundation for Kids*, to expand the backpack program to 5,500 students. The distribution of backpacks began on Monday, July 23 at Patterson Park and has continued to a different park every afternoon of the week.

"It is apparent this is needed in the community", stated RPOA President Brian Smith based on the numbers of families who arrived at the parks. "It is important to see Officers are not just an enforcement tool, and that this would not be possible without their contribution of time and money." "Many of the families and children at the park were also non English speaking and members of the association made themselves available for translation", said RPOA Vice President Juan Munoz.

Over fifty volunteers, largely from the Riverside YMCA and RPOA, meeting at the *A Foundation for Kids* warehouse (2970 Myers St.) on Wednesday, July 18, 2012 packed the bags in preparation for the week. Danielle McQueen of the Foundation for Kids was also on scene to help organize and distribute backpacks. "This is what our Foundation is about, the partnerships used to reach youth throughout the community."

Police Chief Sergio Diaz stated, "It's gratifying to see our youth assisted by the efforts of the Police Association, Foundation for Kids and the Police Foundation." "Being a part of activities that help youth in our community is the direction this department and its Officers need to be headed. The point of the Riverside Police Foundation is to do things for youth in the community while working other entities.

The schedule for distribution of these backpacks will occur between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at these locations each day:

July 23

Patterson Park; 1846 Linden St.

July 24

Central Middle School, 4795 Magnolia Ave.

July 26

Bryant Park; 7950 Philbin Ave.

July 25

Don Lorenzi Park; 4250 Jackson St.

